

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

2006 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS

FOR VIRGINIA'S MARINE WATERS

SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS

AMERICAN EEL

Minimum Size Limit..... 6 inches
Possession Limit..... 50 per person

AMBERJACK

Minimum Size Limit..... 32 inches
Possession Limit..... 2 per person

BLACK DRUM (DRUM, DRUMFISH)

Minimum Size Limit..... 16 inches
Possession Limit..... 1 per person

BLACK SEA BASS

Minimum Size Limit..... 12 inches
Possession Limit..... 25 per person

BLUEFISH

Minimum Size Limit..... None
Possession Limit..... 10 per person

COBIA

Minimum Size Limit..... 37 inches
Possession Limit..... 1 per person

GRAY TROUT (WEAKFISH)

Minimum Size Limit..... 12 inches
Possession Limit..... 7 per person

KING MACKEREL

Minimum Size Limit..... 27 inches
Possession Limit..... 3 per person

RED DRUM (CHANNEL BASS, REDFISH)

Minimum Size Limit..... 18 inches
Maximum Size Limit..... 26 inches

Possession Limit..... 3 per person

SCUP (PORGY)

Minimum Size Limit..... 8 inches
Possession Limit..... 50 per person

SHAD (AMERICAN SHAD) (Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries)

Season..... Closed. Illegal to possess

SPADEFISH

Possession Limit..... 4 per person

SPANISH MACKEREL

Minimum Size Limit..... 14 inches
Possession Limit..... 15 per person

**All Regulations are Subject to Change.
It is the Angler's Responsibility to Know
and Abide by all Current Regulations and
Laws. Check for New Regulations
Before You Go Fishing.**



January, 2006



SPECKLED TROUT (SPOTTED SEATROUT)

Minimum Size Limit..... 14 inches
Possession Limit..... 10 per person

STRIPED BASS (ROCKFISH, STRIPER)

Regulations on Seasons, Size Limits, Possession Limits,

Available on Separate Regulation Card or From the Virginia

Marine Resources Commission. (For contact information see Below.)

STURGEON

Illegal to possess

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)

Minimum Size Limit..... 16.5 inches
Possession Limit..... 6 per person

TAUTOG

Minimum Size Limit..... 14 inches
Possession Limit..... 7 per person

SHARKS (ALL SPECIES EXCEPT SPINY AND SMOOTH DOG SHARKS)*

Minimum Size Limit..... 54 inches fork length**
Possession Limit..... 1 per vessel***

* Prohibited Species – It is illegal to take, catch or possess any shark from the "prohibited shark group," as defined in regulation 4VAC20-490-20, including but not limited to the following species commonly encountered in Virginia: Atlantic Angel, Dusky, Sand Tiger, White, and Bigeye Thresher Sharks. No size or possession limits apply to Dog Sharks.

** Any shark carcass (body minus head and tail) in possession must measure 30 inches in length or longer; no minimum size limit applies to Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks.

*** Possession limit for Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks is 1 per person.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

Saltwater Fishing License – Individual license required in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and in all seaside and coastal ocean waters out to the Three Mile Limit Line, unless fishing on a licensed pier, licensed charter or headboat, or licensed private boat, or unless specifically exempted.

Measurements – Size limits are total length measurements; fish must be measured from tip of nose to tip of tail, except Black Sea Bass, which are measured from tip of nose along the centerline of the body, to the center of the tail.

Snagging – Illegal to snag, or attempt to snag, any finfish.

All Regulations are Subject to Change. It is the Angler's Responsibility to Know and abide by all Current Regulations and Laws. Check for New Regulations Before You Go Fishing.

Regulations Information, including Updates and Changes.

Information on the most current regulations can be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., Newport News, Virginia 23607, (757) 247-2200; from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 South Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451, (757) 491-5160; and from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission internet website at www.mrc.virginia.gov